

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A liquid chromatograph pump as set forth in claim 11, further comprising first and second cylinders and said first and second plungers to form said first and second pumps, and a stepped part being formed at least on an outer peripheral surface of the second plunger in the second pump, along the_a driving direction of the second plunger so as to define a working chamber between the stepped part and an inner wall surface of the second cylinder, wherein one end part of the second plunger on a side remote from a drive side is exposed to a gas atmosphere.

6. (Currently Amended) A liquid chromatograph pump as set forth in claim 11, further comprising first and second cylinders and said first and second plungers to form respective said first and second pumps, and a stepped part being formed at least on an outer peripheral surface of the second plunger in the second pump, along a driving direction of the second plunger so as to define a working chamber between the stepped part and an inner wall surface of the second cylinder, wherein one end part of the second plunger on a side remote from a drive side is exposed to a gas atmosphere, the working chamber in the second pump is connected thereto with a discharge passage from the liquid chromatograph pump, and a working chamber defined in the first pump is connected thereto with a suction passage connected to the liquid chromatograph pump.

7. (Previously Presented) A liquid chromatograph pump as set forth in claim 5 or 6, further comprising an eluent holding container for holding eluent to be fed by the liquid chromatograph pump, a low pressure pump being provided between the eluent holding container and the first pump, a change-over valve, a passage communicated to the eluent holding container and a passage communicated to a column being provided on the downstream side of the second pump, wherein the low pressure pump is operated so as to feed liquid at a large flow rate in order to fill the eluent in the passages on the downstream side while discharging air bubbles remaining in the pumps and the passages, and thereafter, the change-over valve is connected to the passage communicated to the column, and then a trace of the eluent is fed by the first pump and the second pump.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) A liquid chromatograph pump as set forth in claim 11 wherein a liquid flow rate range is from about 0.1 nL/min to 50 µL/min.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A liquid chromatograph pump comprising; an upstream-side plunger pump as a first pump and a downstream-side plunger pump as a second pump, said first and second pumps being connected fluidly in series,

a first motor for driving a plunger of the first pump and a second motor for driving a plunger of the second pump whereby the plunger of the first pump and the plunger of the second pump may be driven at different speeds from each other,

~~a first check valve arranged at an upstream side with respect to the upstream-side plunger first pump to prevent a liquid from flowing from the upstream-side plunger first pump to the upstream side with respect to the upstream-side plunger~~

Amendment in response to OA mailed April 7, 2008

first pump when [a] the plunger of the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump moves forward to pressurize the liquid in the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump, and to allow the liquid to flow toward the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump from the upstream side with respect to the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump when the plunger of the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump moves backward to take the liquid into the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump, and

a second check valve arranged between the ~~upstream-side~~ first and ~~downstream-side plunger~~ second pumps to prevent the liquid from flowing from the ~~downstream-side plunger~~ second pump toward the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump when the plunger of the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump moves backward to take the liquid into the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump and the plunger of the ~~downstream-side plunger~~ second pump moves forward to pressurize the liquid in the ~~downstream-side plunger~~ second pump, and to allow the liquid to flow from the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump toward the ~~downstream-side plunger~~ second pump when the plunger of the ~~downstream-side plunger~~ second pump moves backward to take the liquid into the ~~downstream-side plunger~~ second pump and the plunger of the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump moves forward to pressurize the liquid in the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump to make a flow rate of the liquid discharged from the ~~upstream-side plunger~~ first pump greater than a flow rate of the liquid ~~stored in the downstream-side plunger~~ taken into the second pump.